THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is a voluntary effort by a consumer Organisation and the Government is not involved in it.

(c) The Central Government has no feedback on this aspect. The Institute has reported that it is interacting with the industry and trade organisations.

(d) and (e) According to the information sent by the said Institute, it conducted two courses, namely, one certificate course and one refresher course on consumer protection and one batch of 55 candidates completed the courses. From July 1994, the Institute proposes to run 2 courses viz. one year post graduate diploma in consumer education and 4 months orientation course in consumer protection.

Rise in Wholesale Price Index

5243. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 635 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th February, 1994; and state :

(a) whether the wholesale prices of over 250 commodities including a large number of food articles have risen substantially and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the wholesale price index at the end of March, 1994 as against the correspondin period in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Of the total commodities in the Wholesale Price Index, 170 commodities have recorded an inflation rate above 10 per cent as 26-3-1994.

(b) The percentage rise in Wholesale price index for all commodities as on 26th March, 1995 was 10.2% as against 7% in the corresponding period of last year.

Reduction Sale of Imported Palfolein Oil

5244. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALA RAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of imported Palmolein oil were disposed of at reduced prices recently;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the quality of this imported oil was getting deteriorated as the shelf-life of the oil expires in April 1994; and

(d) if so, whether the stock was tested for fitness for human consumption before disposing of at reduced prices and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dos not arise.

(c) The shelf-life of RBD palmolein kept loose (i.e. in bulk tanks) is generally

for six months approximately. Keeping this into consideration, efforts are being made to distribute, the stock of palmolein imported during October-November, 1993, through PDS, before the quality gets deteriorated. The oil is also being packed in 15 kg. tins where necessary, to enhance its shelf life by a few months. No quantity of the oil imported during October-November, 1993 is reported to have deteriorated as yet.

(d) Does not arise.

ISI Marks on Sub Standard Switches

5245. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI-marked switches lack quality" apearing in the Times of India dated 8th April, 1994;

(b) if so, who is responsible for awarding ISI marks without ensuring that the quality standards specified by Bureau of Indian Standards are met by the manufacturers; and

(c) what action is taken against the erring manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Certification Marks Scheme, licence is granted by the Bureau of Indian Standards only after ensuring that :

(i) the product conforms to the relevant standards and

(ii) the manufacturer has adequate facilities and infrastructure for testing the product. Periodic surveillance over the performance of the licensee including drawal and testing of samples is carried out by the Bureau of Indian Standards, in accordance with the Certification Marks Scheme.

(c) Out of 8 manufacturers whose samples were drawn and tested by Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad, 4 did not possess valid licence for using the ISI mark, which is a violation of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. Appropriate action has been initiated by the Bureau of Indian Standards against this misuse of ISI mark. As regards the other four manufacturers who are holding valid licences, more samples are being drawn from the market for independent testing by the Bureau of Indian Standards and BIS is taking appropriate action in accordance with the Certification Marks Scheme against the erring manufacturers which may include cancellation of licences.

Misuse of promotional expenses discount by Super Bazar

5246. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that promotional expenses and discount are the areas which have been misused by the Super Bazar to defraud the consumers;